

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 /042 W

----- 097550

O 281334Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9953

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1544

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT FORD), BU

SUBJECT: FORD-ZHIVKOV MEETING AND KISSINGER-MLADENOV MEETING

REF: STATE 176428

1. CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV PURSUANT TO REFTEL. HE ACCEPTS WITH PLEASURE THE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTION THAT THEY MEET BRIEFLY AROUND 1615 HOURS ON JULY 31 AT THE CONFERENCE SITE. CONSULTING THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, HE REMARKED THAT WHILE HE WOULD LIKE TO LISTEN TO SPEECHES OF YUGOSLAVIA AND TURKEY, SINCE THEY ARE NEIGHBORS OF BULGARIA, HE COULD ABSENT HIMSELF NOT ONLY DURING DANISH AND BELGIAN INTERVENTIONS BUT ALSO, IF NECESSARY, DURING THAT OF SWEDEN. I SAID THE TWO DELEGATIONS WOULD BE IN TOUCH ABOUT PRECISE TIMING.

2. AS REGARDS ZHIVKOV'S REQUEST TO SEE PRESIDENT FORD, I PUT THE POSITION IN EXACTLY THE TACTFUL TERMS OF PARAGRAPH 1 REFTEL, LEAVING OPEN FAINT POSSIBILITY THAT SOMETHING MIGHT YET BE ARRANGED, AND MLADENOV GOT THE POINT AND REMARKED THAT IT WAS EASY TO SEE THAT TIME FOR EVERYONE WOULD BE SHORT, IN FACT ZHIVKOV'S OWN TIME WAS BECOMING DIFFICULT TO ALLOCATE, AND OBVIOUSLY EACH CHIEF OF STATE COULD NOT SEE ALL THE OTHERS.

3. COMMENT: IF FLIGHT PLAN FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE FROM BUCHAREST TO BELGRADE INVOLVES OVERFLIGHT OF BUL-
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GARIA, IT WOULD BE VERY DESIRABLE IF PRESIDENT COULD,

AS HE PASSES THROUGH BULGARIAN AIRSPACE, SEND A SHORT
GREETING TO THE BULGARIAN CHIEF OF STATE WHO, AS WILL
BE RECALLED, HAS INVITED HIM TO VISIT BULGARIA AND MADE
OTHER RECENT OVERTURES IN OUR DIRECTION.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SOFIA01544
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750259-0871
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750715/aaaaansh.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 176428
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORD-ZHIVKOV MEETING AND KISSINGER-MLADENOV MEETING
TAGS: OVIP, BU, (PRESIDENT FORD)
To: STATE HELSINKI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006